

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Senate Launches Conspiracy Study Into King's Death

Ray Now In Cell

By GREGORY JAYNES

The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee has launched an investigation into whether the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was the result of a conspiracy.

"We are collecting all of the information on this subject we can," Chairman James O. Eastland (D-Miss.) told Morris Cunningham, chief of The Commercial Appeal's Washington Bureau yesterday.

"There always has been and there is now a question as to my mind as to whether this killing was the work of one man," said Eastland. "We are securing all available information."

Ray pleaded guilty Monday and was sentenced to 99 years in prison. His attorneys denied any possibility of a conspiracy.

Federal investigative agencies long have contended that Ray acted alone. However, it was reported Tuesday that the Justice Department is taking another look at the case, in the light of Ray's courtroom hint that he did not agree with the theories of former Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark and J. Edgar Hoover that there was no conspiracy in the case.

Atty. Gen. Phil Canale said Monday Ray's motive for killing Dr. King was essentially a question of racism. "We have no proof other than James Earl Ray acting alone killed Martin Luther King," said Mr. Canale.

Ray had nothing to say yesterday. Wearing chains, he ignored shouted questions from newsmen and entered the Tennessee State Prison at Nashville, trying to hide his face with unworked hands.

Ray left Shelby County under conditions set different from his heavily armed arrival last July that he was able to ride right by newsmen without being noticed.

Wearing a sheriff's deputy's helmet and jacket, Ray walked from the back door of the Shelby County Jail at 12:55 a. m. yesterday, loitered on the back steps a minute while a deputy finished his cigaret then got into a regular patrol car. The car had arrived minutes earlier and three of the four men entered the jail. Ray switched places with one of them, was handcuffed to a deputy and moved out.

Sheriff William N. Morris Jr. said Ray seemed to enjoy playing the role. He waved to a local TV cameraman as the car drove out and newsmen waved back. "Don't get cold out there," Ray yelled as he passed by unnoticed.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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The car was met by another sheriff's unit at Third and North Parkway. Sheriff Morris left a few minutes later and caught up with the caravan near Southwestern. Ray was taken to the sheriff's substation on Hemcrest Lane and waited there until nearly 5 a. m. talking with officers. He then was taken to the highway patrol station on Highway 70 where he was given into state custody at 5:20 a. m.

Ray rode to Nashville in an unmarked car with state Safety Commissioner Greg O'Rear, TBI chief W. E. 'Bud' Hopton and two other officers. Seven cars of heavily armed state troopers escorted them.

For the confessed killer, the sound of a cell door slamming was nothing new. He has been in and out of prisons all his adult life.

On the heels of that, William Bradford Huie said last night he now believed there was no conspiracy and that Ray acted alone.

In a television interview with NBC Mr. Huie said: "The first story that Ray told (wrote) me was that he was sitting in the Mustang, parked on Main Street. He said that Raoul (the mystery blond Cuban mentioned in previous Huie articles) fired the shot, ran down the stairs and dropped the gun and jumped into the backseat of the car, covering himself up with a sheet."

Mr. Huie also said that Ray had insisted that Raoul had made the decision to kill Dr. King. The Alabama author said he was convinced for a long time that Ray had been a hired participant in the conspiracy, but that he was unable to verify many of the things Ray told him.

Ray Arrives At Prison, Flanked By Greg O'Rear And Highway Patrol Inspector Mackey H. Quinn

